

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00263 130619Z

12

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 /035 W

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R 130538Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7258

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USLO PEKING

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND NOVOTNY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AWB MISSION TO VISIT PRC

1. AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER JOHN WILLIAMS DEPARTED MELBOURNE EVENING JAN. 12 FOR HONG KONG AND PEKING TO NEGOTIATE NEW WHEAT SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR 1976, AND IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN PEKING JAN. 15. DECISION TO DEPART MADE AT LAST MINUTE, AS DEATH OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND FUNERAL JAN. 15 WAS EXPECTED TO CAUSE DELAY. AWB SPOKESMAN INDICATED BOARD HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN IDEA ON VOLUME PRC WILLING TO PURCHASE, BUT OBVIOUSLY PRC PREPARED TO MEET AT LEAST PART OF 1.5 TO 1.8 MILLION COMMITMENT UNDER LONG TERM AGREEMENT FOR 1976.

2. GOA OFFICIALS BELIEVE PRC WILL TAKE AT LEAST 1 MILLION TONS, BUT AWB DELEGATION HOPES TO REACH AGREEMENT ON 1.5 MILLION TONS. CONTRACT FOR 1 MILLION TONS MARCH/FEBRUARY 1975/76 VIRTUALLY COMPLETED WITH ONLY ABOUT 30,000 TONS REMAINING TO BE NOMINATED FOR SHIPMENT. IN VIEW OF BETTER THAN EXPECTED HARVEST AWB WOULD BE HAPPY TO SELL UP TO 1.8 MILLION TONS FOR SHIPMENT DURING 1976,

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BUT MOST AUTHORITIES DOUBT PRC WILL TAKE THIS MUCH

UNLESS PRICE IS RIGHT. HOWEVER, AWB HAS OBTAINED
RESERVE BANK EXCHANGE APPROVAL FOR 12 MONTHS CREDIT
TERMS FOR UP TO THIS QUANTITY IN CASE A DEAL CAN BE
CLINCHED.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, VISITS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER00263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0811
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaaceea.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AWB MISSION TO VISIT PRC
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS, AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD, (WILLIAMS, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006